

The work should prove an important reference volume to ornithologists and invaluable to the sportsman of South Africa.— W. S.

Mathews' Austral Avian Record, No. 2.¹—In this number Mr. Mathews gives brief diagnoses of 108 new subspecies of Australian birds and descriptions of the eggs of 137 forms. A few questions of nomenclature are also discussed: the proper name for the Broad-billed Sandpiper is shown to be *Limicola falimellus* Pontoppidan, and the eastern race *L. f. sibirica* is added to the Australian fauna. Voeg's Catalogue comes in for further discussion and Mr. Mathews adopts still another view as to how it is to be quoted. He regards most of the names in the Catalogue as *nomina nuda* but where possible quotes them from there rather than from the *Adumbratiunculæ* and credits them to Voeg!²— W. S.

Oberholser on the Edible-nest Swiftlets.³—In view of the large number of additional specimens of *Collocalia fuciphaga* that Mr. Oberholser has been able to examine since the appearance of his recent monograph of the genus, he is able to recognize ten instead of four geographic forms of this bird. Of these *C. f. amechana*, from the Anamba Island, *C. f. arophila* from Nias Island, *C. f. mearnsi* from Luzon and *C. f. tachyptera* from Guam, are here described as new.— W. S.

Clark on 'The Ontogeny of a genus.'⁴—In this timely paper Dr. Clark emphasizes the fact that systematists do not devote the careful study to genera that they bestow upon species and subspecies and makes a plea for careful analyses to determine "what genera are logical and valid and what are mere artificial aggregations, brought together solely for the sake of convenience." The origin and development of genera are then discussed as well as the effect of geographic and ecological barriers to their distribution.— W. S.

Wright on Birds of the Jefferson Region.⁵—This is a carefully annotated list of 188 species based mainly upon the author's observations during the past twelve seasons together with those of Mr. F. B. Spaulding.

¹ The Austral Avian Record. A Scientific Journal devoted primarily to the study of the Australian Avifauna. Vol. I, No. 2. April 2, 1912. Witherby & Co. London. Price 1s. 6.

² Cf. 'The Auk,' April, 1912, p. 205.

³ A Revision of the forms of the Edible-Nest Swiftlet, *Collocalia fuciphaga* (Thunberg). By Harry C. Oberholser. Proc. U. S. Nat. Museum, Vol. 42, pp. 11–20, March 6, 1912.

⁴ The Ontogeny of a Genus. By Austin H. Clark. The American Naturalist, Vol. XLV, June, 1911, pp. 372–374.

⁵ The Birds of the Jefferson Region in the White Mountains, New Hampshire [vignette] by Horace W. Wright [Published by Manchester Institute of Arts and Sciences, Manchester, N. H. 1911. [= Vol. V, Part I of the Proceedings of the Institute], pp. 1–126.